

Description of Alternatives

ALTERNATIVE D

This alternative is based on a high investment management option.

The alternative would increase the intensity of management of both commodity and noncommodity resources. Grazing opportunities, timber production and developed recreation would receive major investment. Higher investments would also be made for the improvement of wildlife habitat (terrestrial and riparian) and recreation opportunities of dispersed nature.

A major effort would be made to control the invasion of medusahead rye into native vegetative areas and to reclaim infested areas that have high productive capability.

The annual harvest of timber will be increased to 2.9 MMBF through the use of intensive management practices on all suitable commercial forest lands.

The Box Creek Wilderness Study Area would be designated and managed as an outstanding natural area.

The issues of land tenure and the Payette River as well as the other resource management programs would be the same as identified in Alternative B.

Additional recreation development would result from investment in recreation facilities for camping, boating and public access.

Areas of special interest or fragile environments would be given special designation such as Research Natural Area and ACEC.

The 487,466 acres of public lands would be placed into one of four multiple use or transfer categories as follows:

<u>316,473</u>	acres Moderate,	<u>3,321</u>	acres Intensive
<u>131,945</u>	acres Limited,	<u>35,727</u>	acres Transfer

Livestock Resources

Objectives

Manage 427,176 acres of rangeland to provide forage for livestock and wild horses.

Livestock-AUMs: 72,571 Active Pref., 66,424 Licensed
63,942 5 yr., 76,613 20 yr.

Wild Horses-Numbers: 4 Mile 10 Initial, 20 20 yr.
West Crane Creek 12 Initial, 0 20 yr.

Wild Horses-AUMs: 20 yrs.: 4 Mile 240; West Crane Creek 0

Actions

Stock Driveways: 40,763 existing maintained, 22,237 existing eliminated
(acres) 627 new added, 41,390 total available

Vegetative Manipulation:

5 yrs - 8,000 acres burn, spray and/or seed; 3,000 acres disc & seed
20 yrs - 31,000 acres burn, spray and/or seed; 6,000 acres disc & seed

Projects: 191 mi. fence, 40 water developments, 36 mi. pipelines

Activity Plans: 7 existing AMPs/CRMPs to be reviewed and updated.
23 AMPs will be prepared.

Livestock grazing will continue and may be adjusted on currently grazed public lands classified for transfer until these lands are transferred.

Special Considerations

Seed mixtures on vegetative manipulations will include grass, forb and shrub species that will benefit both livestock and wildlife.

Watershed ResourcesObjectives

Provide special designation and management for the Boise Front area (12,000 acres).

Actions

Designate 12,000 acres of the Boise Front as an ACEC and prepare/update the following activity plans - HMP, RAMP.

Vegetative ResourcesObjectives

Protect candidate and sensitive plants.

Protect and manage 13 specific sites containing candidate, sensitive, or uncommon plants or valuable plant communities.

Improve general condition on 21% of all fair and 3% of all good condition rangeland.

Change or improve condition on 25% of the poor condition rangeland and maintain condition on remaining areas.

Actions

Develop and implement management actions for areas found containing candidate or sensitive plants. Fence selected areas where harmful disturbance is likely. Monitor suspected areas.

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Exclude surface and subsurface ROWs in those areas known to contain candidate or sensitive plants. Include no surface occupancy stipulations in all mineral leases.

Adjust livestock grazing practices in allotments in poor and fair condition.

Mechanically treat (through range and wildlife projects) areas of poor and fair condition rangeland that possess a return potential.

Designate and/or manage 13 areas as follows:

Special Management Area	De-signations	Acres	Minerals (acres)			ROW Avoidance (acres)			ORV Use (acres)		
			Locat-ables	Leasables		0	Surf	Sub	0	L	C
			With-drawal	Clo-sed	No Surf.						
1. Lost Basin Grassland 1/	RNA	65	65	0	65	0	65	65	0	0	65
2. Rebecca Sandhill 1/	RNA	410	410	0	410	0	410	410	0	0	410
3. Sand Hollow 2/	None	500	0	0	500	0	500	500	0	500	0
4. Summer Creek 2/	RNA	240	240	0	240	0	240	240	0	0	240
5. Peraphyllum Rock	None	40	0	0	40	0	40	40	0	0	40
6. Beacon Hill	None	20	0	0	20	0	20	20	0	20	0
7. Sagebrush Hill	None	10	0	0	10	0	10	10	0	0	10
8. Buckwheat Flats	RNA	200	200	0	200	0	200	200	0	0	200
9. 4th July Meadow	None	100	0	0	100	0	100	100	0	0	100
10. Sand Capped Knob	None	40	0	0	40	0	40	40	0	0	40
11. Goodrich Creek 1/	RNA	440	440	0	440	0	440	440	0	0	440
12. Pearl	None	400	0	0	400	0	400	400	0	400	0
13. Prostrate Ceanothus	None	80	0	0	80	0	80	80	0	80	0

1/ Exclude or limit livestock grazing.

2/ No water or salt blocks in area or on ridgeline.

Projects: 6 mi. fencing

5 acres for interpretative signing

Activity Plans: Incorporate management needs for candidate and sensitive plant species in all activity plans where plants are known.

Prepare five Research Natural Area Management Plans.

Wildlife Resources

Objectives

Manage 181,640 acres of elk habitat, 274,810 acres of deer habitat and 3,960 acres of antelope crucial winter habitat and provide forage to support proposed populations.

Manage 183,020 acres of sage grouse habitat to improve brooding and nesting habitat.

Improve 23,912 acres of wildlife habitat through new seeding and interseeding existing areas and shrub plantings.

Provide special management on 61,000 acres of curlew and 32,960 acres of Columbian sharp-tailed grouse habitats to improve populations of these sensitive species.

Maintain existing habitats for other wildlife species.

Wildlife Unit Months:	<u>6,960</u> Elk,	<u>40,272</u> Deer,	<u>1,200</u> Antelope
Expected Population:	<u>180</u> yr long Elk,	<u>876</u> yr long Deer,	<u>100</u> Antelope
	<u>1,200</u> winter Elk,	<u>7,440</u> winter Deer	

Actions

Vegetative Manipulation: 10,387 acres Shrub, Grass & Forb Seeding
8,295 acres Burn, Disc & Seed
2,230 acres Interseed,
3,000 acres Special Project Seeding

Projects: 30 mi. fence, 2 Guzzlers

Activity Plans: HMP for Curlew, Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse.

Designate 61,000 acres of curlew habitat and 4,200 acres of sharp-tailed grouse habitat as ACECs.

Special Considerations (rehabilitation, seed mixture, seasonal restrictions, ORV restrictions)

Riparian and Aquatic Resources

Objectives

Improve the condition of 11 stream miles of riparian habitat. Continue present management on 94 stream miles of riparian habitat.

Improve the condition of 10 miles of aquatic habitat and continue present management on 55 miles of aquatic habitat.

Actions

Adjust livestock grazing practices on riparian areas in allotments where riparian/aquatic projects are proposed.

Incorporate riparian pastures and/or special measures in AMPs to improve all riparian and aquatic habitat.

Projects: 14 mi. fencing, 8 mi. instream work
17 mi. of stream bank planting

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Lands and Realty

Objectives

Identify for transfer from federal ownership 35,727 acres of public lands (243 acres through sale (T1); 28,750 acres through sale or exchange (T2); 6,174 acres through exchange (T3); and classify 560 acres for potential DLE/CA development (T4)). Retain 451,739 acres of public lands in federal ownership.

Actions

Initiate clearance actions (cultural, wildlife, paleontologic, etc.) on lands to be transferred. Provide 2-year notifications to livestock permittees once the final decision to transfer has been made.

Cultural Resources

Objectives

Protect, through special designation and management, areas with significant cultural values.

Actions

Nominate eight sites to the National Register of Historic Places and manage as shown below.

Surface and subsurface ROWs will be routed to avoid cultural sites.

Sites	NR <u>1/</u> Acres	Minerals (acres)			ROW			ORV Use		
		Locatables		No Surf	Avoidance (acres) <u>2/</u>			ORV Use (acres) <u>3/</u>		
		Withdrawal	Closed		0	S	Sub	0	L	C
1. Placerville Townsite	8 <u>4/</u>	8	0	8	0	8	8	0	8	0
2. Grays Creek	40 <u>5/</u>	<u>5/</u>	0	<u>5/</u>	0	<u>5/</u>	<u>5/</u>	0	40	0
3. Indian Creek	20	<u>5/</u>	0	<u>5/</u>	0	<u>5/</u>	<u>5/</u>	0	20	0
4. Milk Creek	20	<u>5/</u>	0	<u>5/</u>	0	<u>5/</u>	<u>5/</u>	0	20	0
5. Cabin Creek	20	<u>5/</u>	0	<u>5/</u>	0	<u>5/</u>	<u>5/</u>	0	20	0
6. Quartzburg	386	<u>5/</u>	0	<u>5/</u>	0	<u>5/</u>	<u>5/</u>	0	386	0
7. Centerville	516	<u>5/</u>	0	<u>5/</u>	0	<u>5/</u>	<u>5/</u>	0	516	0
8. Pioneerville	581	<u>5/</u>	0	<u>5/</u>	0	<u>5/</u>	<u>5/</u>	0	581	0
9. Mineral	429	<u>5/</u>	0	<u>5/</u>	0	<u>5/</u>	<u>5/</u>	0	429	0

1/ National Register of Historic Places.

2/ 0 = Overhead; S = Surface; Sub = Subsurface.

3/ 0 = Open; L = Limited; C = Closed.

4/ National Register of Historic Places (existing).

5/ Acreage to be determined by National Register determination process.

Projects: 5 mi. fencing
Activity Plans: CRMP (9)

Recreation Resources

Objectives

Provide or enhance recreation at 23 areas.

Provide for ORV recreation activity on public lands.

Manage 2,600 acres of public lands along the Payette River as a Wild and Scenic River (recreation river category).

Actions

Designate ORV recreation activity as open on 3,276 acres, limited (to existing or designated roads and trails) on 481,615 acres and closed on 2,575 acres.

Manage 35,727 acres of public lands recommended for transfer as limited to designated or existing roads and trails for ORV recreation until lands are transferred.

Recommend the study of 8 miles of Payette River (South Fork) for possible inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic River System as a recreation river.

Obtain recreational access through easement and acquisition of lands.

Description of Alternatives

Designate and manage 23 areas as follows:

Sites	Special Management Area Type	Acres	Minerals (acres)			ROW 1/ Avoidance (acres)			ORV (acres) 2/		
			Locat- ables	Lease- ables	No Surf.	0	Surf	Sub.	0	L	C
			With- drawal	Clo- sed							
1. Cascade Uplands 3/	ERMA	334,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	330,485	5
2. Weiser River	Boat Launch	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0
3. Clay Peak	Cycle Park	948	0	0	948	0	948	948	436	0	512
4. Oxbow 5/ Brownlee	SRMA	40,000	0	0	0	0	4/ 0	0	0	39,777	0
5. Wild Horse	Campground 6/	2	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	2
6. Steck	Campground 6/	11	0	0	11	11	11	0	0	0	11
7. Weiser Dunes	Play Area	200	0	0	200	0	200	0	200	0	0
8. Snake River	Boat Launch	10	0	0	10	10	10	0	0	10	0
9. Payette River 7/ Corridor	SRMA/WSR	19,000/ (2,600/ 8 mi.)	2,600	2,600	0	2,600	2,600	2,600	0	19,000	0
10. Box Creek 8/	ONA	440	440	0	440	440	440	440	0	0	440
11. North Fork	Campground 6/	10	0	0	10	10	10	0	0	0	10
12. Garden Valley	Boat Launch	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0
13. South Fork	Campground 6/	3	0	0	3	3	3	0	0	0	3
14. Chief Parrish	Picnic Site	2	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	2
15. Boise Front 9/	SRMA/ACEC	12,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11,995	0
16. Hulls Gulch	Interpret. Trail	5	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	0	5
17. Treasure Valley 10/	ERMA	72,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	67,820	0
18. Little Gem	Cycle Park	3,000	0	0	3,000	0	3,000	0	2,100	900	0
19. Dewey	Play Area	30	0	0	30	0	4/ 30	0	30	0	0
20. Parma	Play Area	10	0	0	10	0	10	0	10	0	0
21. Pickles Butte	Play Area	500	0	0	500	0	500	0	500	0	0
22. Paddock Reservoir	Campground	5	0	0	5	5	5	0	0	0	5
23. Birds of Prey	Natural Area	640	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	640	0

1/ 0 = Overhead; Surf = Surface; Sub = Subsurface.

2/ 0 = Open; L = Limited; C = Closed.

3/ Specific constraints covered under Weiser River, Clay Peak, and Paddock Reservoir.

4/ Except for Electrical Transmission Towers in Existing ROW.

5/ Specific constraints covered under Steck, Weiser Dunes, Wild Horse and Snake River.

6/ Exclude or limit livestock grazing.

7/ Specific constraints covered under Box Creek, Garden Valley, South Fork and Chief Parrish.

8/ Allow no harvest of timber or wood products. Protect free flow of Box Creek.

9/ Specific constraints covered under Hulls Gulch.

10/ Specific constraints covered under Little Gem, Pickles Butte, Dewey and Parma.

Projects: Water and/or Sanitary facilities 8, Launch Ramp 3,
Access 8

Activity Plans: RAMPs for Oxbow-Brownlee, Box Creek, Payette River
Corridor, and Boise Front.

Forest Resources

Objectives

Manage 25,347 acres of suitable commercial forest land for timber management and harvest.

Allow firewood harvesting (commercial and noncommercial) on forest lands.

Manage 6,548 acres of forest lands under CFL set asides. This includes 4,923 acres for TPCC withdrawal, 70 acres for seed orchard withdrawal, 1,240 acres for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, 20 acres for campground withdrawal, and 295 acres for outstanding natural area.

Provide an annual harvest of approximately 2.9 MMBF through the use of full intensive management practices on all suitable commercial forest land.

Obtain access to suitable commercial forest lands through acquisition when necessary for program management.

Actions

Projects: Build 116 mi. of forest access road (5.8 miles annually)
Acquire access on one to three areas.

Activity Plans: Timber Management Plans

Special Considerations

Harvesting of suitable commercial forest lands will be through selective and clearcutting practices. Any clearcutting will be limited to a size of 40 acres or less. Timber harvest would occur on approximately 200-1,200 acres annually.

Mineral Resources

Objectives

Make available 454,666 acres (93% of area) available for locatable exploration and development and 456,289 acres (94% of area) for leasable mineral exploration and development.

Continue making available salable minerals from three material sale sites and 16 free-use sites as needed.

Description of Alternatives

Actions

Leasables (acres)			Locatables (acres)		Salables (acres)	
Open	Closed	No Surface Occ.	Open	Withdrawn	Available	Unavailable
456,289	31,177	7,731	454,486	32,980	95	0